

I claim:

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1. An alert generating method comprising:
providing to a mobile unit information that identifies conditions for an
5 alert;
monitoring in the mobile unit a position of the mobile unit; and
alerting a designated location when monitoring of the position of the mobile
unit indicates the mobile unit satisfies the conditions for the alert.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein alerting the designated location
comprises:

15 sending a signal from the mobile unit to a service center when monitoring
of the position of the mobile unit indicates the mobile unit satisfies the conditions
for the alert; and

20 15 generating the alert from the service center to the designated location in
response to the signal from the mobile unit.

25 3. The method of claim 2, wherein sending the signal from the mobile unit
via a wireless data system.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the alert comprises
20 telephoning the designated location.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein generating the alert comprises sending
25 e-mail to the designated location.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein providing the information that identifies
the conditions for the alert, comprises downloading the information from the
service center to the mobile unit via a wireless connection to the mobile unit.

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7. The method of claim 6, further comprising downloading a destination list, including the information that identifies the conditions for the alert, to a web site corresponding to the service center

5 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the information that identifies the conditions identifies an area around a destination for the mobile unit.

10 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the information that identifies the conditions indicates that the alert should be generated when the mobile unit enters the area around the destination.

15 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the information that identifies the conditions indicates that the alert should be generated when the mobile unit leaves the area around the destination.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the information includes a location and a threshold radius that respectively correspond to a center and a radius of the area surrounding the destination.

20 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting a selected destination for the mobile unit, wherein the information that identifies the conditions for the alert, requires that the selected destination be a destination that is identified in the information.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein an operator of the mobile unit selects the selected destination when the mobile unit is directly proceeding to the selected destination.

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14. A delivery method comprising:
30 creating a list of destinations for deliveries, the list including a threshold distance for one or more destination for which an alert should be generated;

selecting a destination from the list as a next destination for a delivery vehicle;

monitoring distance between the delivery vehicle and the selected destination; and

5 generating an alert from the delivery vehicle when the distance is less than a threshold distance.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein generating the alert comprises: sending a message from the delivery vehicle to a service center, the 10 message including a tag identifying the destination; looking-up a designated location that corresponds to the destination; and sending the alert from the service center to the designated location.

16. A mobile unit comprising:
15 a location system;
a wireless device; and
a control circuit, wherein the control system automatically activates the location system to determine a current location of the mobile unit, determines whether the mobile unit has crossed a threshold, and activates the wireless device 20 to send an alert signal if the mobile unit has crossed the threshold.

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25 17. The mobile unit of claim 16, wherein the location system is a GPS receiver.

18. The mobile unit of claim 16, wherein the wireless device is a wireless modem.

19. The mobile unit of claim 16, wherein the wireless device is an attached data-capable cellular telephone.

20. The mobile unit of claim 16, wherein the control circuit determines whether the mobile unit has crossed the threshold by determining whether the current location of the mobile unit is within an alert area.

5 21. The mobile unit of claim 20, wherein the control circuit calculates a distance between the current location and a central point in the alert area and determines whether the distance is less than a threshold distance associated with the alert area.

10 *19 Jwb 037* 22. A system comprising:
a data connection;
an alerting device; and
a service center connected to the data connection to enable receipt of messages from a mobile unit and connected to the alerting device to enable the
15 service center to activate the alerting device and send alerts, the service center maintaining contact information for the mobile unit, wherein
in response to a signal from the mobile unit, the service center activates the alerting device to send an alert to a designated location identified in the contact information.

20 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the service center comprises an server that permits internet access to the service center for setting of the designated location to which the alerting device sends the alert.